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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 AF-10 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OODE-00 EB-09  
CONE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 /086 W  
-----240709Z 099979 /10

R 240545Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2345  
INFO AMEMBASSXOIMLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBAFCY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L K A B U L 2778

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, AF, UR  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DAQUD'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: A) MOSCOW 5177✓B) KABUL 2656✓C) MOSCOW 5477✓

1. AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH APRIL 20 GAVE ME A FEW MORE DETAILS OF PRESIDENT DAQUD'S APRIL 12-15 VISIT TO MOSCOW.

2. ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WHICH WAS SIGNED WAS A STANDAND AGREEMENT WHICH THE SOVIETS MAKE WITH

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WOULD IN DUE COURSE BE PUBLISHED. THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS DEALT LARGELY, HE SAID, WITH THE USES TO BE MADE OF THE OUTSTANDING \$700 MILLION OF SOVIET CREDITS TO AFGHANISTAN. THE SOVIETS HAD AGREED TO ASSIST WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 500,000-TON-PER-YEAR OIL REFINERY IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN AND WITH THE EXPLOITATION OF THE COPPER DEPOSITS NEAR KABUL. ABDULLAH SAID THAT THERE IS AS YET NO FIRM ESTIMATE OF AFGHAN

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OIL RESERVES, BUT THE BEST GUESS WAS 60-70 MILLION

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TONS WHICH HE SAID WAS ENOUGH FOR TWENTY YEARS' DOMESTIC USE. HE WAS AWARE OF THE — STATING THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD SOON BECOME A NET — IMPORTER OF OIL AND SPECULATED THAT THIS WAS AMONG THE REASONS THE SOVIETS ARE WILLING TO ASSIST AFGHAN OIL DEVELOPMENT. COMMENT: THE AFGHAN-SOVIET TWELVE-YEAR, RENEWABLE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN KABUL APRIL 21. IT CALLS FOR GENERAL COOPERATION ON THE BASIS OF SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL BE CONCLUDED FOR EACH PROJECT. COPY POUCH NEA.

END COMMENT

3. ON POLITICAL MATTERS, ABOULLAH SAID HE FOUND THE SOVIETS PREOCCUPIED WITH TWO AREAS OF THE WORLD: SOUTHERN AFRICA AND SOUTH ASIA. ON THE FORMER, PODGORNYY SEEMED PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS RECENT TRIP. ON THE LATTER, NOT SURPRISINGLY A SUBJECT FOR AN AFGHAN-SOVIET GET-TOGETHER, ABOULLAH SAID THE SOVIETS SEEMED WORRIED ABOUT THE SWING TO THE RIGHT, AS ABOULLAH TERMED IT, IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, ABOULLAH SAID THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ALSO NOT CONTENT WITH INTERNAL EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, ADDING THAT THEY ARE IN GENERAL UNHAPPY WITH THE SUCCESS OF AMERICAN POLICY IN SUPPORTING NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS. BUT HE ALSO ADDED THAT THE SOVIETS TREATED DAQUD WITH GREAT RESPECT AND WERE CAREFUL TO BE SENSITIVE TO HIS NATIONALIST PRIDE.

4. REGARDING THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP, ABOULLAH SAID HE WAS STRUCK WITH THE CLEAR DECLINE IN BREZHNEV'S HEALTH OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT GROMYKO, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE IN AFGHAN-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS, TOOK THE LEAD AT SEVERAL POINTS IN THE TALKS.

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